

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) A blood vessel extroverting instrument according to claim 21, wherein said contact portion is made of an elastic material or a superelastic material.
4. (Previously Presented) A blood vessel extroverting instrument according to claim 21, further comprising a regulatory means for regulating said operating mechanism.
5. (Original) A blood vessel extroverting instrument according to claim 4, wherein said regulatory means includes an adjustment means capable of position adjustment.
6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A blood vessel extroverting instrument according to claim 6 1, wherein said wire-like member or said pair of arms include intermediate portions intersecting each other.

8. (Previously Presented) A blood vessel extroverting instrument according to claim 21, wherein the diameter of said ring portion is changed by changing the length of said wire-like member forming said ring portion.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) A blood vessel extroverting instrument according to claim 21, wherein said contact portion is in the state of having its diameter reduced when said supporting portion is in an unrestrained state, and the diameter of said contact portion is increased when said supported portion is in an urged state.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) A set of a blood vessel extroverting instrument according to claim 21 and a clip ring capable of being fitted around a blood vessel.

19. (Currently Amended) A set of a blood vessel extroverting instrument according to claim 44 22 and a clip ring capable of being fitted around a blood vessel.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A blood vessel extroverting instrument used to turn an end of a blood vessel inside out, said instrument comprising:

a contact portion to be brought into contact with ~~an~~ the end of a the blood vessel;

a supporting portion on which said contact portion is supported; and

an operating mechanism for increasing and reducing the diameter of said contact portion,

wherein said contact portion comprises a ring portion formed of a wire-like member in the form of a substantially circular ring, said ring portion being supported

on said supporting portion, and operation of the operating mechanism increasing and reducing the diameter of said ring portion;

said supporting portion comprises a pair of arms each having a distal end, said ring portion being connected to the distal end of each arm, and the diameter of said ring portion being changeable by changing the distance between the distal ends of said pair of arms; and

said ring portion is ~~inserted~~ insertable into the blood vessel through the opening of the end of the blood vessel while being maintained in a reduced diameter state, and the diameter of said ring portion is thereafter ~~increased~~ adapted to be increased, whereby ;and

the end of the blood vessel being is expanded and/or reversed by operating said operating mechanism.

22. (Currently Amended) A blood vessel extroverting instrument used to turn an end of a blood vessel inside out, the instrument comprising:

a contact portion to be brought into contact with an inside of the end of a the blood vessel;

the contact portion being supported by a ~~support mechanism~~ supporting portion and defining an outer circumference that is adjustable;

the supporting portion comprising an operating mechanism for changing the outer circumference defined by the contact portion between a relatively smaller outer circumference permitting the contact portion to be introduced into the inside of the end of the blood vessel and a relatively larger outer circumference after the contact

portion has been introduced into the inside of the blood vessel to permit the blood vessel to be turned inside out;

wherein said contact portion comprises a ring portion formed of a wire-like member in the form of a substantially annular ring, said ring portion being supported on said supporting portion, and operation of the operating mechanism increasing and reducing the outer circumference of said ring portion; and

said supporting portion comprising a pair of arms each having a distal end, said ring portion being connected to the distal end of each arm, and the outer circumference of said ring portion being changeable by changing the distance between the distal ends of said pair of arms.

~~said ring portion is inserted into the blood vessel through the opening of the end of the blood vessel while being maintained at the relatively smaller outer circumference and the outer circumference of said ring portion is thereafter increased to the relatively larger outer circumference.~~

23. (Previously Presented) The blood vessel extroverting instrument of claim 21, wherein said member forming the substantially circular ring is a one-piece member.

24. (Previously Presented) The blood vessel extroverting instrument of claim 22, wherein said member forming the substantially annular ring is a single member.

25. (New) A blood vessel extroverting instrument used to turn an end of a blood vessel inside out, the instrument comprising:

an annular ring portion formed of a wire-like member, said ring portion being positionable inside the blood vessel and adapted to be brought into contact with an inside of the end of the blood vessel, said ring portion possessing an outer circumference that is adjustable;

a supporting portion on which said ring portion is supported, said supporting portion comprising a tubular insertion portion; and

wherein a portion of the wire-like member which forms the ring portion extends into the tubular portion and is connected to a slider portion which is movable relative to the insertion portion to adjust the outer circumference of the ring portion between a relatively smaller outer circumference permitting the ring portion to be introduced into the inside of the end of the blood vessel and a relatively larger outer circumference after the ring portion has been introduced into the inside of the blood vessel to permit the blood vessel to be turned inside out.

26. (New) The blood vessel extroverting instrument of claim 25, wherein at least a portion of the ring portion is positioned outside the tubular portion both before and during introduction of the ring portion into the inside of the blood vessel..

27. (New) A method of turning an end of a blood vessel inside out comprising:

positioning an annular ring portion inside the end portion of the blood vessel while the ring portion is in a relatively smaller outer circumference state, the ring

portion being expandable from the relatively smaller outer circumference state to a relatively larger outer circumference state;

expanding the outer circumference of the ring portion to the relatively larger outer circumference state while the ring portion is positioned inside the end portion of the blood vessel to outwardly expand at least a part of the end portion of the blood vessel; and

turning the end portion of the blood vessel inside out.